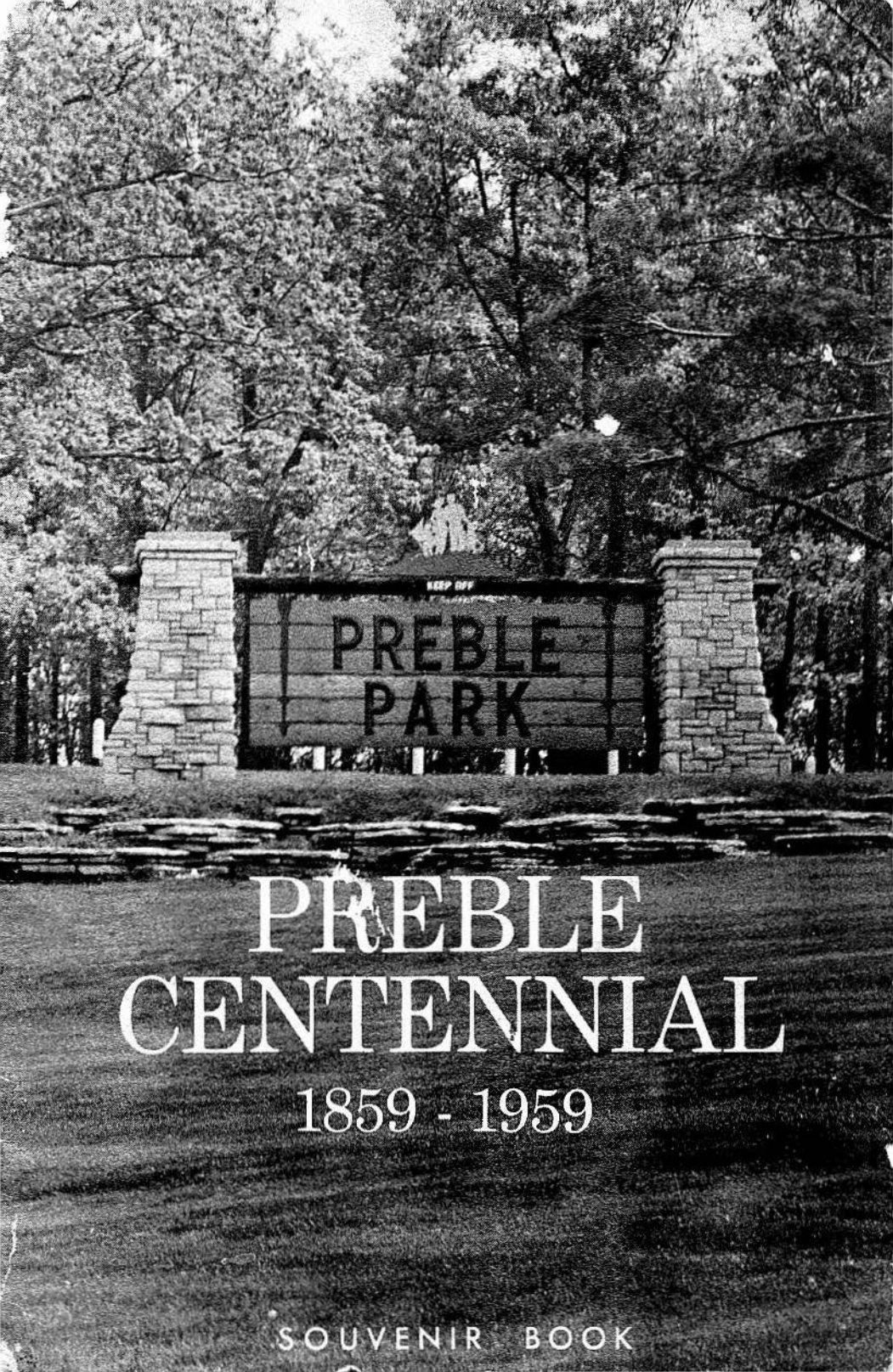


PREBLE CENTENNIAL

1859 - 1959

SOUVENIR BOOK

PREBLE
1859 - 1959

This brief history of the one hundred years of progress of Preble is written as a tribute to our splendid pioneers who had the vision and the fortitude to make this development possible.

The book is not meant to be a literary gem but an authentic history of our Town as far as it is possible from the records now available.

We thank all who helped in any way to compile this information and for the use of any material.

This record will, we hope, remind the people of the responsibility of the future. May it be an inspiration to all — in the one hundred years ahead — to make an even greater PREBLE.

Master, make us worthy of the lives that shaped us!
May our work stand when we have gone our way.
When in the far-off years we may not enter
Our children's children keep a better day.
— Francis Crosby Hamlet

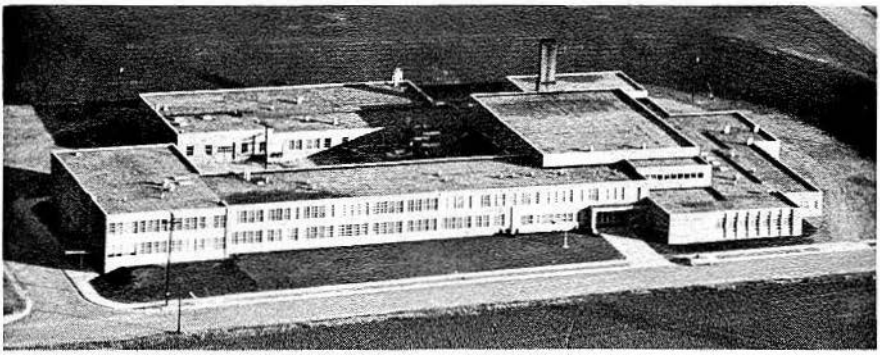
History Book Committee,

Al Murray
Henry Lefebvre
Robert Johnson
George S. Bradley
Bernard Vandenbusch
Lee Manders
Martha Ann Hollenbeck

The photos of municipal and civic buildings, parks, aerial and scenic views through the courtesy of

LEFEVBRE - LUEBKE
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS
GREEN BAY, WIS.

AERIAL VIEW OF A PORTION OF PREBLE LOOKING EAST



Preble-Humboldt School District No. 1

Preble-Humboldt District No. 1 which includes Preble, seven square miles of Humboldt and two-thirds of the Town of Bellevue, serves all ages of children. It has one High School and six elementary schools. Nearly two thousand children will be enrolled next year. It will require seventy-four professional and twelve non-professional people to carry on the school program. Mr. John F. David is Supervising Principal.

PREBLE HIGH, dedicated December, 1958, is a full accredited high school. Designed to house 900 students, the building has over one hundred thousand square feet of floor space, with a site of twenty-four acres.

FINGER ROAD, the first school in Preble, built September, 1866. The present school, ranch type of brick and stone was built in 1924. It is a one-room school, grades one to five.

DANZ, our newest school on Danz Avenue adjacent to park. Dedicated in 1957 and has an enrollment of two hundred sixty students.

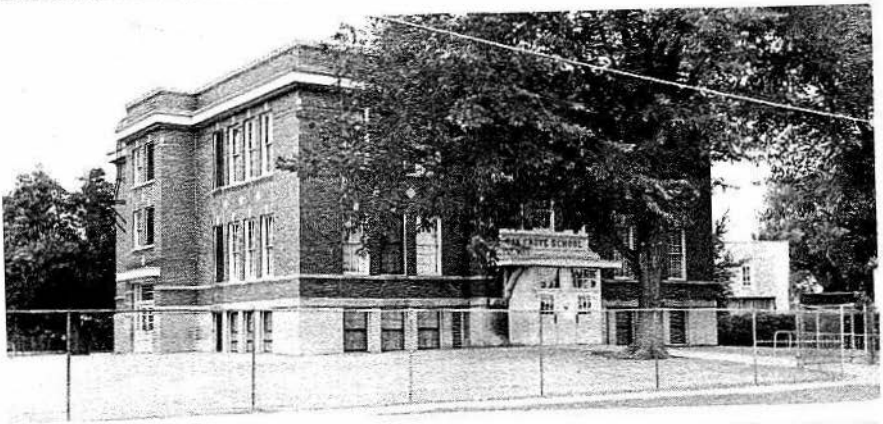
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, located on Farlin Avenue, serves the children in the northern part of Preble. Has an enrollment of two hundred sixty.

OAK GROVE, located on Main street on the site of the first frame school built in 1904. It has three hundred students and nine teachers.

SUMMIT, located on Humboldt road, eastern boarder of Preble. Grades one to six, an enrollment of sixty-five students.

WILSON, a one-room school in the Town of Bellevue.

Sites for two elementary schools on Hillside Lane and on Lilac Lane are now owned by the Town. Plans for one school have been approved and it will be completed by 1961.

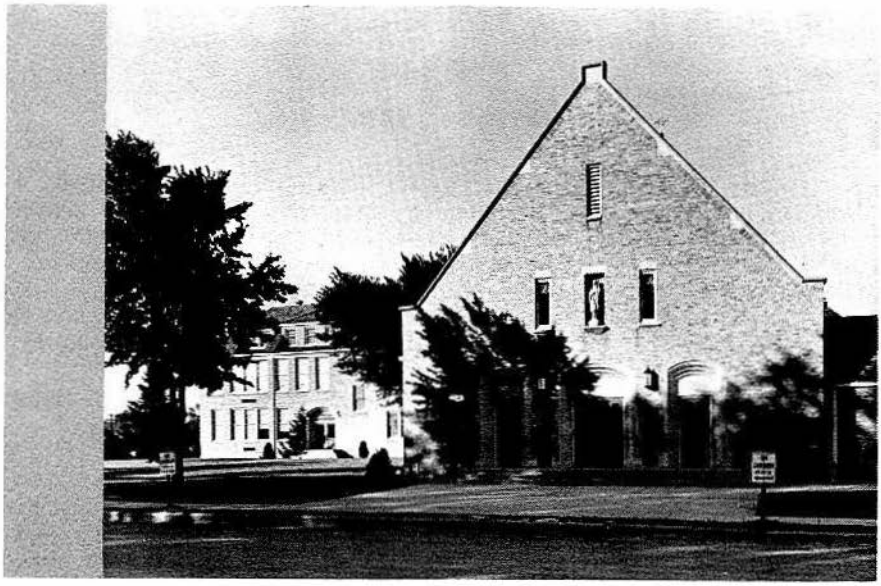


Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church **Finger Road**

"Finger Church" as it is known was the first church built in our town. Early church of logs was built on this site by Peter Faenger, first settler, in 1836. Brick church was built in 1883. It has been remodeled and redecorated. A rural parish. Rev. Edward J. Lemieux, Pastor.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church **South Henry Street**

Parish was organized in 1942. In 1944 five acre plot was purchased. This church with seating capacity of 350 was built and dedicated with beautiful services on August 2, 1959. Membership is 550 with 150 children in church school. Rev. Robert Koch, Pastor.

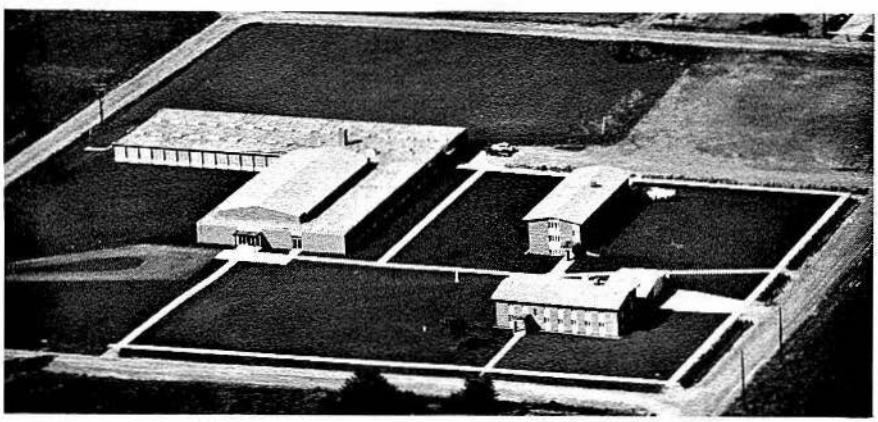


St. Philip The Apostle Church and School **Victoria Street**

The corner stone was laid May 1, 1939, and the church occupied in late 1940. It serves 1,016 parishioners and 649 school children. The school has seventeen teachers. Rev. Theodore H. Verbeten, Pastor.

St. Bernard. Church and School **St. Bernard Drive**

The parish was established July, 1956, a site of eight acres purchased and the buildings dedicated September, 1958. School has twelve classrooms, all elementary grades. There are 400 school children and the church serves 450 parishioners. Rev. Edward N. Haessly, Pastor.



A Brief History

PREBLE

1859 - 1959

Preble Township is 100 years old! But Preble is much older. In 1836, Peter Faenger, and a group of German families, settled Preble. After arriving in Green Bay, they moved east, looking for land to their liking. They found it in Preble. This stretch of country is high and very rolling ground, known as the Kettle Moraine section, the deep valley showing where the glacier pushed its way, rested and melted, forming streams and ponds. Through here runs East River, Ellis Creek, and Baird's Creek.

The farm houses were made of hewn logs, chinked with mud, roofed with hand split shingles, floored with rough planks, and gathered in small groups, along the highway.

Place names in those days were merely descriptive, and for many years, Preble was known as "The Faenger." Even unto this day the name persists in "Finger" Road, and "Finger" church, and school.

Not much has been recorded about the history of Preble, or about the founders of the Town. The few memoirs that are available are stories of sturdy pioneers and pathfinders.

One of the first buildings Faenger and his settlement erected was a church, and at first it was serviced by a priest from Green Bay. Among the names of the early families of Preble, are Rothe, Cryan, Smith, and Chauncey N. Aldrich. This Chauncey N. Aldrich, came from New York state in 1839, at the age of 14 years. He worked very hard and he had saved enough to buy a farm in Preble by 1847.

Early in the history of the Town, John M. Smith, was making a very good income in market gardening, on land supposed to be worthless. The profit was considerable, but with the settlements to the north, the coming of the railroad, and the river freighters, the market for Smith's produce was expansive. Smith became the counselor of his neighbors in successful gardening and in profitable marketing.

Successful farming and horticulture became the hallmark of the Town, years before it became known as a most favorable, residential area. Smith became widely known as a horticulturist. The promotion of the first Brown County Fair came as a result of his efforts.

In July, 1859, the movement for a new township had grown, had been organized, and was ready for action. A petition, "good and sufficient," was presented to the Brown County Board, praying that a town be set off from the huge Town of Green Bay, and that said Township be called the Town of Preble. The next morning, the County Board ordered that the new town be set off and officially recorded as Preble Township.

The next census year, 1860, enrolled 520 persons in Preble, but only about forty per cent of the 113 families had their roots in Germany. Preble now had native Irish, Canadians, Hollanders and Belgians.

And where did Preble get its name? It might have been from Admiral Edward Preble, who served in Tripoli in 1803. But it is more probable that Peter Faenger, who migrated from Preble, Germany, named the Town. Or it may be that Chauncey N. Aldrich, named both

Preble and Scott. He was born in Preble, Courtland Count, New York. His father owned land in Preble, N.Y., and in the adjoining Township of Scott.

Log houses were replaced by frame houses, and they began to think of better schools. A school district was organized in 1866, and the first school, The Finger School, was erected.

The first election in 1859, was held in Ed Rothe's home, on Cedar Creek Road. The result was Chauncey N. Aldrich elected as Chairman, a position he held for twenty-six years. When, on November 21, 1861, the post office of Preble was established, Ed Rothe was appointed postmaster. He was the first and the last postmaster, for the costs of the Civil War justified discontinuing the post office, August 1, 1864.

Town meetings were held in various homes, until about 1895 when the Town Hall on Baird's Creek Road was built.

Gardening and dairying were the chief occupations for a time but industry was attracted by the facilities the town had to offer and companies were established. The Liebmann Packing Company, now one of the great packing companies, was established in 1887. In 1925 the Atlas Cold Storage Company purchased the Acme Packing Company property on east side of Morrow Street and erected many large buildings to be used for cheese manufacturing and the storage of food products. The Great Atlantic and Pacific Company had space here from 1928 to 1958. Since 1936 this has been one of the large cheese manufacturing centers. The four great cheese companies of the processing industry were in this area.

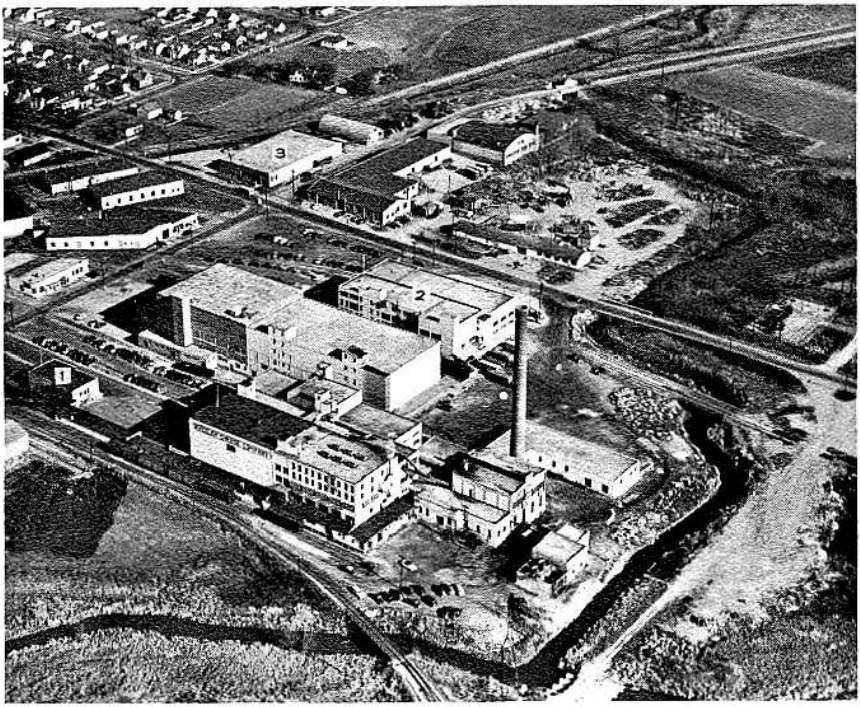
One of the earliest grist mills, was on Cedar Creek Road, near the home of Ed Rothe. It was built in 1855, by Thomas Smith, and was referred to as the "Cedar Creek Mill." Farmers came from many miles away to have their grain ground into coarse flour. The old building was torn down in 1935 when the new highway was built.

This is a brief history, but pages could be written of the phenomenal growth of the Town. Preble, today, is one of the largest townships in our state, with a population in excess of 12,000. Preble, with its well organized, modern school system, adequate fire and police protection, water facilities, and all necessary municipal services, is comparable to any community of its size in Wisconsin.

Among those early settlers were Hubert Kreischer, who operated a blacksmith shop for twenty-two years; Jacob Lau, a pioneer in the dairy industry; Selina Bodard, now 89 years of age and active; August Greiling, who acquired many acres of land, was a carpenter and built many houses; Henry Raymaker, successful in gardening; John Mahon who came in 1849 and was a homebuilder; John Basten, a successful farmer, whose son and grandson were Town Chairmen; and William Enderby, who came from England in 1842.

For more than one hundred years, the people of this area have been pioneers, pathfinders, and builders. Out of a wilderness, they have built a beautiful, a prosperous, and a friendly Town of Preble.

Martha Ann Hollenbeck, Historian



"Cheeseville"

This is one of the great cheese manufacturing centers in Wisconsin, famous for its cheese. Space in the buildings, property of the **Atlas Cold Storage Company** (1), is leased by cheese companies. **PAULY CHEESE COMPANY** (2), a Division of Swift & Co., is the largest cheese procuring company in Wisconsin and one of the four great companies in the processing field. It was established in Ozaukee County, in 1878, by Nicholas Pauly, and moved to Preble in 1947. The company has sales representatives in every state in the United States and also in foreign countries. Mr. Frank A. Pauly is the Manager. **PLYMOUTH CHEESE COMPANY** (3), came from Plymouth in 1951. It is entirely wholesale sales. Mr. Henry Sears is the Manager.

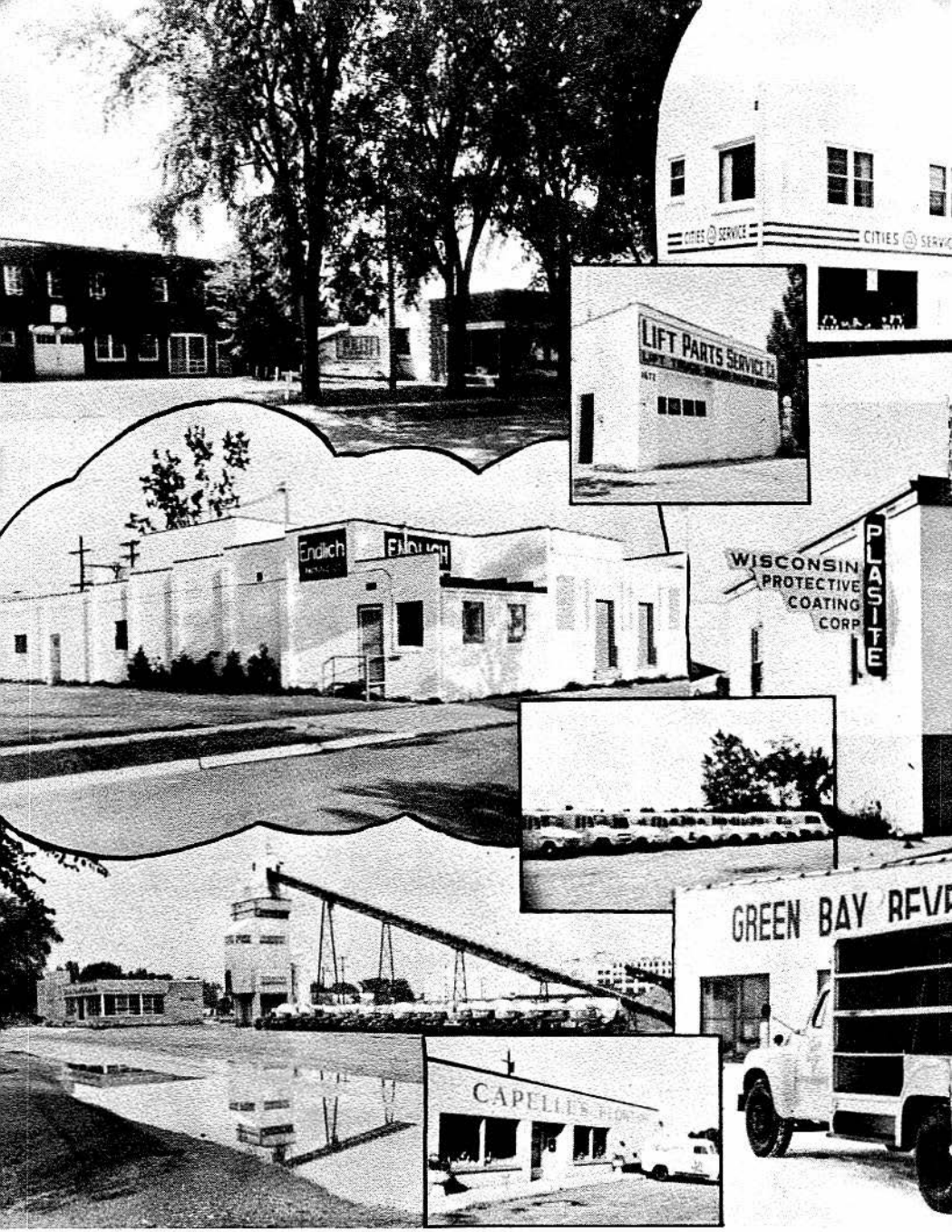
SCHREIBER CHEESE COMPANY (4) right, is the largest independent cheese company in the United States and is one of the four great companies in the processing field. This building was erected in 1945, but the Schreiber Company, engaged in the assembling, processing and the packaging of cheese, was started in 1937. The firm has handled over one hundred million pounds of cheese in a year. Mr. M. C. Bush is Vice-President and Manager.

Liebmann Packing Company **Willow Street**

An aerial view of the Liebmann Packing Company. The plant site, part of the old Liebmann homestead, is a hill-top location, at the western end of the moraine section of Preble. Edward Liebmann, father of L. E. and H. C., Sr., present heads of the firm, established the business in 1887 and the company has grown to become known as one of the large beef slaughterers of our area. For many years the firm had the cattle slaughtered and chilled at a local plant. But in 1936 they completed their first building. But new construction and additions became necessary. Early in 1953 at a cost of more than $300,000, the "on-the-rail" dressing system was completed. Electric power and compressed air drive this new equipment, the first of its kind in the United States. Throughout the system the company has over three hundred employees. Meat from here is shipped all over the United States and to some foreign countries.

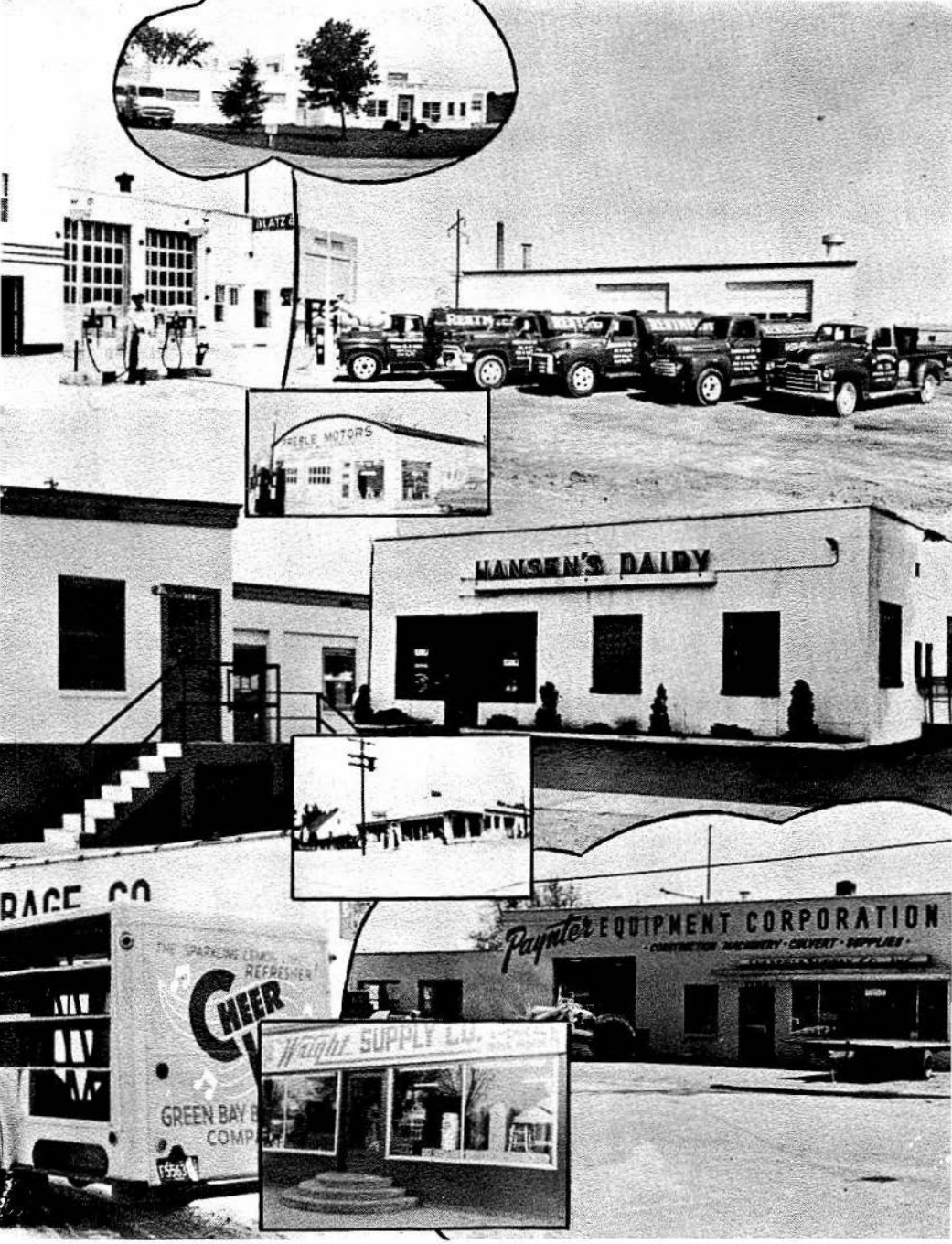
MORE INFORMATION

If more information is needed about desirable factory sites, business locations, facilities, etc., contact the Preble Town Chairman's office, 1817 Deckner Ave., Green Bay, Wis.



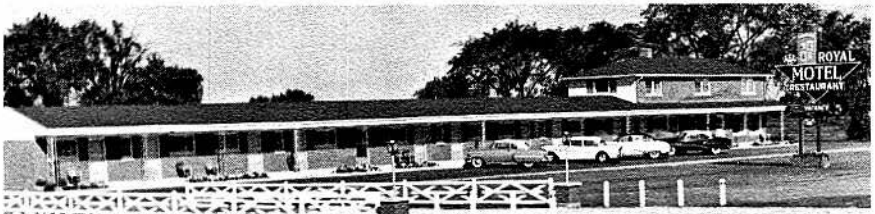
A GROUP OF PREBLE INDUSTRIAL

Preble business and industry is diversified. Facilities,
try locating here. If interested and more information is



AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

pace and manpower are no problem to business or indus-
desired, contact the Preble Town Board.



ROYAL MOTEL AND RESTAURANT

STRATOSPHERE SUPPER CLUB

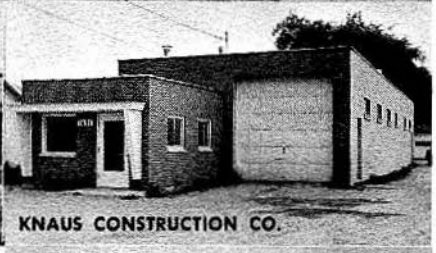
MANCI'S SUPPER CLUB

KROLLS

SUPPER CLUB

SUPER VALU MARKET

JOSKI'S OFFICE BUILDING



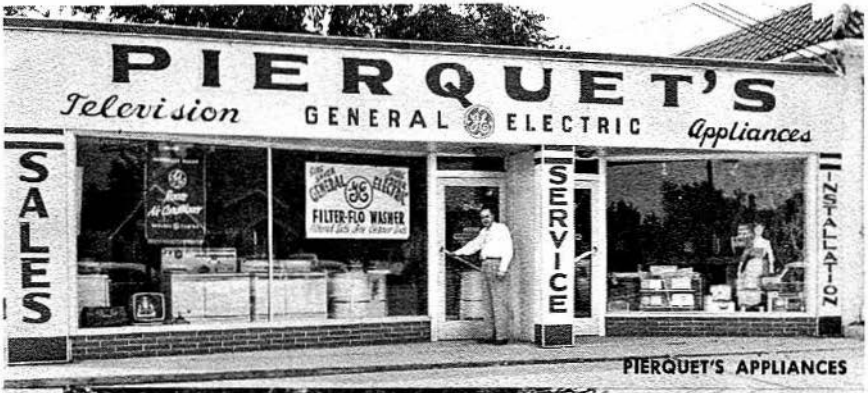
KNAUS CONSTRUCTION CO.

BRENDEMIHL AND GAROT CO.

RENTER'S MARKET

SURE-WAY SUPER MARKET

DISTRIBUTORS INCORPORATED

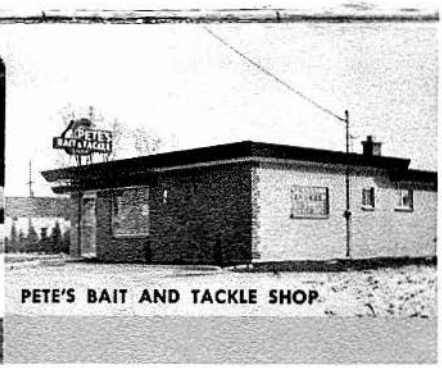


PIERQUET'S APPLIANCES

JOHNSON'S INTERIOR DECORATORS

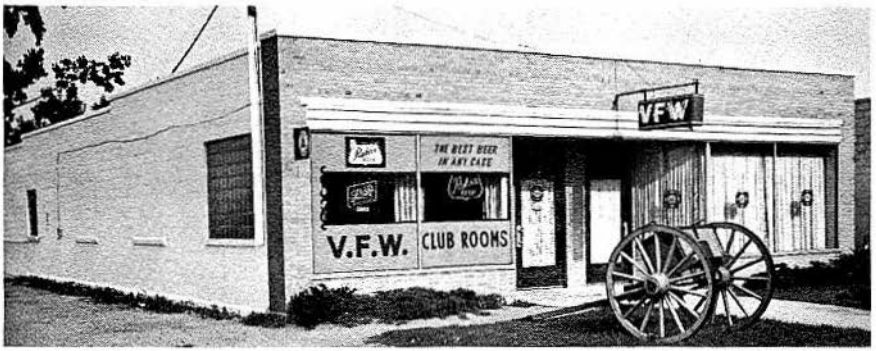
KELLEY PHOTO SERVICE

CASTLE TAVERN



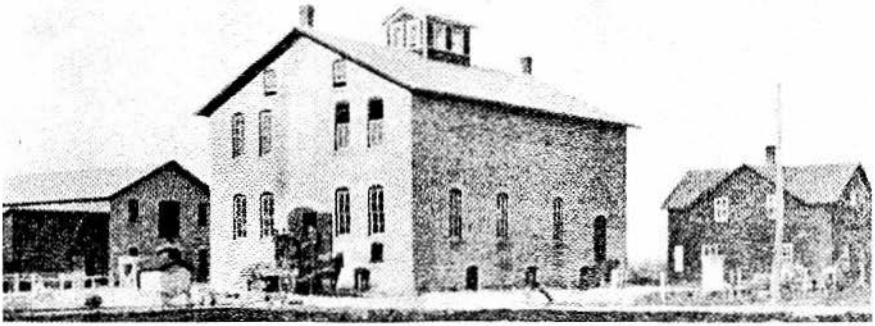
PETE'S BAIT AND TACKLE SHOP

PREBLE STATE BANK



V.F.W. NOBLE-STRAUBEL POST

WISCONSIN CHEESE EXCHANGE



(A) John M. Smith **Smith Bros.** **Berger Street**

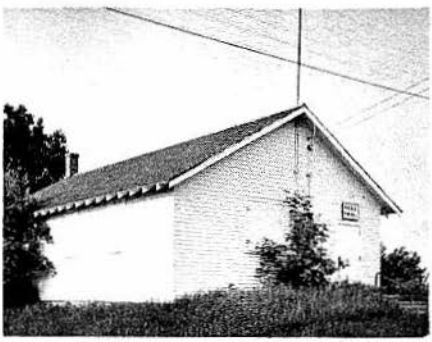
Sometime in early 1860, John M. Smith, a young man with vision of success, purchased land in Deckner Avenue area, because it was cheap and near a market. He made his experiment in market gardening, showing the people what could be accomplished by intelligent methods of work. Market gardening became and is still a great industry in our state.

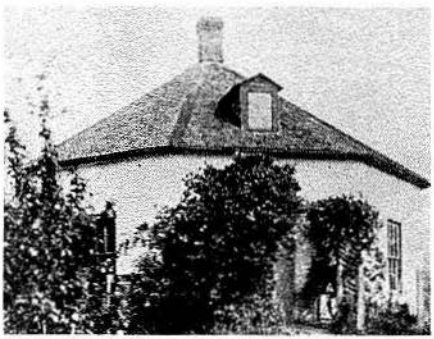
(B) Preble Town Hall **Humboldt Road**

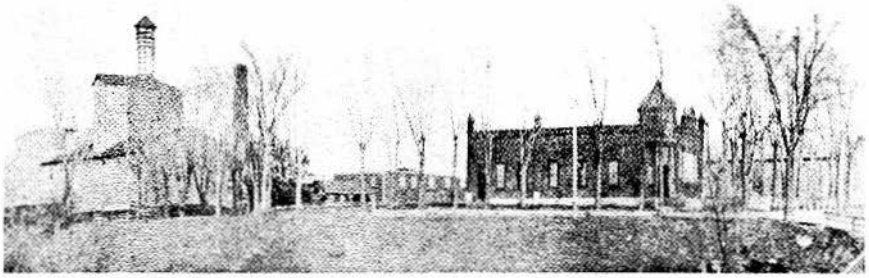
When Town Hall was destroyed by fire in 1928, this was built on the same site within a month. It is now used for annual meeting and is one voting precinct.

(C) Octagon House **East end of Mill Street**

This house was built before the Civil War by Frederick Deckner and his two sons. It stood on a hill just east of Danz Avenue. This form of building was brought to the United States early in the 1800's by German carpenters. It had three rooms on each of the two floors. Walls were made of a combination of lime and gravel, an early form of cement. In 1948 there were twenty-four of these houses in Wisconsin. Deckner House was occupied until it was torn down in 1952.







(D) Hagemeister Brewing Company **East of Ellis Creek**

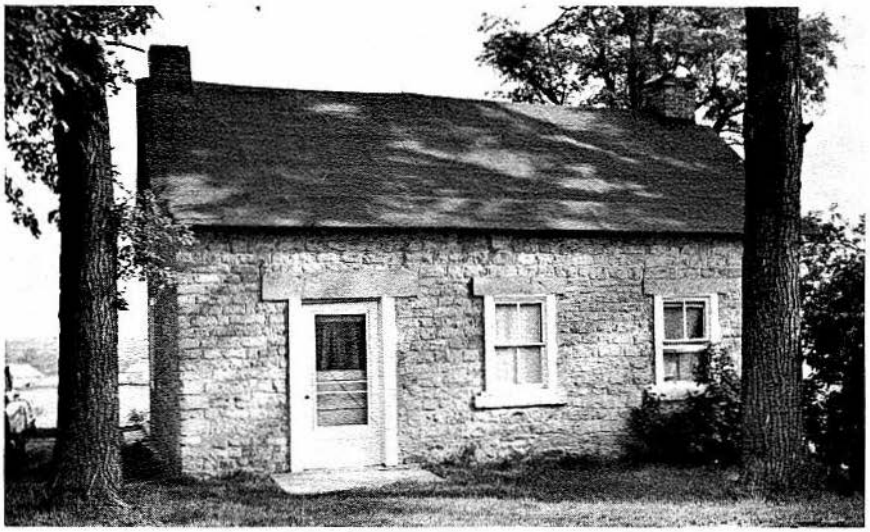
The Hagemeister Brewing Company on the east side of Ellis Creek, renamed Bellevue Products Company in 1918. At extreme right, east on Main Street is the entrance to Bellevue Park, where in 1923-24 with crowds of 4,000 to 5,000 storming the fences, the Packers played some of their games which led to the World Championship.

THANK YOU

We offer our thanks to all the people who so generously offered the historical photos used in this book.

(E) Old Stone House **Cryan Avenue**

This old stone house was built in the early 1800's, about 1850 by John Mahon. It is made of stone and limestone and the structure is similar to several along the road between Preble and Red Banks. It is still occupied and is one of the oldest homes in the Town.



Administrative Building **Deckner Avenue**

This was the first building of the Water Department and with the garage was completed in 1938. It now houses all of the Town Offices. The Utility System was set up twenty-three years ago. It now has, in addition to this building, four pumping stations, two booster stations, an iron removal plant and building to house it at No. 4 station, an elevated tank on Farlin Avenue and sphere tank on Mount Mary Drive. It has forty-eight miles of mains, laid at a cost of $750,000, and to provide adequate fire protection 440 hydrants have been established. Services to customers require the pumping of one and one-half million gallons of water daily. With the buildings, and all of the land, equipment which includes the three trucks in the picture below, the department is valued at one and one-half million dollars.

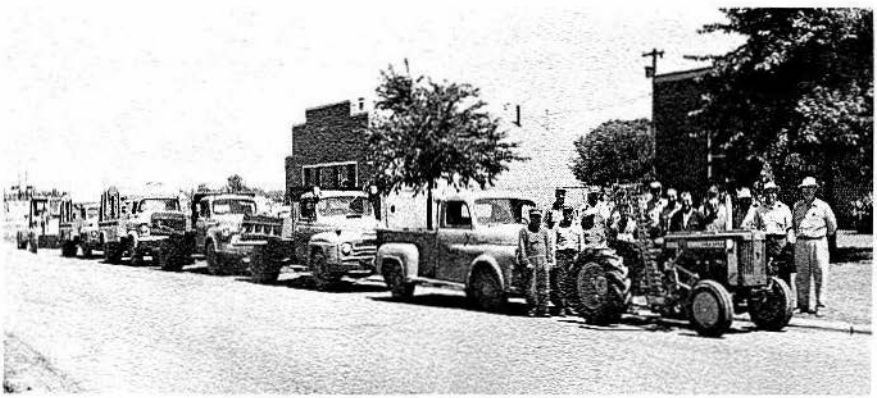
Personnel of Water Department **Sphere on Mount Mary Drive**

Fire Department — Deckner Avenue

The equipment of the Fire Department, which is pictured here with the Department building in the background, consists of four trucks and a fully equipped rescue squad car. This is more equipment than in many cities comparable to the size of Preble. The Department has eight full-time firemen and chief and thirty registered volunteers. In 1958, forty-one rescue calls were made by the squad car. Preble Fire Department also services the Town of Bellevue.

Street Department — North Henry Street

The Preble Street Department is pictured below, with the department building for background, and the equipment and the sixteen men who are regularly employed in the department. A garbage ordinance was adopted by the town in 1942. In addition to the care of the many miles of streets in the town, the collection and disposal of all refuse is taken care of by this group at regularly scheduled days.



Parks and Playgrounds

Preble Park, on Hillside Lane, contains approximately fifteen acres of beautiful wooded area. It has a ball park, tennis court, playground equipment, shelter houses and it is fully equipped for recreation and picnics.

St. Philip's has two ball parks, an ice rink, and good equipment. Play leaders of Preble conduct a ten week program at both parks. Baird's Creek Park, in which we have a ski tow and a toboggan hill, has a supervised program under the leadership of the Preble Recreation and Green Bay Recreation Departments.

PREBLE CENTENNIAL PATRONS

To these people listed below, we dedicate this Centennial Souvenir Booklet in appreciation of their generous help to make this commemorating event possible.

Preble Business and Civic Association

Andrusdevicz Family
Hilbert Basten
Bouschard's Standard Service
Dr. Thomas G. Barrett
Erv Berken
Charles Beyer's Trading Post
Brown County Motors
Buy Low Food Stores
Capelle's Floral
Carl's Service Station
Alphonse DeKeyser
Delwiche Farms
Dettmann's Tire and Battery
Dick's Standard Service
Frank Donarski
Down Carpet Company
Endlich Packing Company
George and Ed Gersek
Green Bay Beverage Company
Hansen's Dairy
Hill Brothers' Service
Hoida Lumber Co.
Joseph P. Holman
Jahnke Beverage Company
Jauquet Lumber Company
Johnson's Interiors
Jones Transfer and Warehousing Co.
Kalcik's
Kater's Insurance Company
Clifford Kellner
Knaus Construction Company
Kroll's
Fred Kropp
Kelley Photo Service
Henry Lefebvre
Liebmann Packing Company
Malcore Funeral Home
Manci's Supper Club
James McKanna
Norbert Moes Construction
Nels Davies Dental Laboratory
Cora and Ella Nelson
Newtol's Tavern
Packer City Motel
Pauly Cheese Company
Pete's Bait and Tackle Shop
Pierquet's TV - Appliance
Preble Beauty Shop
Preble Drug Store
Preble Material Supply Co.
Preble Motors
Preble State Bank
Henry Radinz
Renier's Market
Ogden Rothe
Royal Motel
John H. Schmitt
L. D. Schreiber and Co., Inc.
Schuster Quality Concrete
Shadow Lawn Dairy
Selissen's Sky Top
616 Club
Steve's Barber Shop
Stratosphere Club
Sure Way Stores
Tenor Brothers Construction
Buford Teal
VFW Noble-Straubel Post
Anthony Valentino
Peter Walraven
Wisconsin Protective Coating Co.
Wisconsin State Bank
Harley Wittig
Henry Wittig
The Wright Industrial Supply Co.
Zimonick Brothers